

March 5, 2009

Office of General Counsel  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street, N W  
Washington, D C 20463  
Att Jeff S Jordan  
Re MUR 5972

RE Iowa Christian Alliance  
939 Office Park Road, Suite 115  
West Des Moines, IA 5

Dear Mr Jordan

As requested, I am responding to a complaint numbered MUR 5972. I will respond in the order in which the complaint refers to me personally, or has wrong information regarding any of my activities

I never personally used the ICA office, office equipment, other than the telephone, conference room or database. Steve Scheffler knew I wasn't personally supporting any candidate during the time I was in Iowa and in no way was my objective to influence Christian conservatives to vote for Mitt Romney and not vote for Mike Huckabee

Never did I say I was being paid, but said I was there at my own expense and had a few friends who were generous enough to help me with my expenses. When asked for their names, I said I didn't believe there was any reason to give their names.

I was a guest at the Best Western Walnut Creek Inn for several weeks, departing Iowa on December 23 and did not return for any further dates nor did I return for the Iowa Caucus, January 3, 2008. At NO time did I ever have access to the ICA database, during neither business hours, nor non business hours or at any other time.

The meeting of which Stacey Cargill refers was not a meeting but an "off the record" discussion. She and two other people came to a scheduled event at the ICA office on Saturday, December 1, which had been cancelled due to a snowstorm. I will respond to this in further detail when responding to the NBC article, which follows.

The NBC/NJ's Carrie Dann article of December 04, 2007 includes an email sent by Steve Scheffler to the ICA list, which needs clarification. I'm not sure what Mr. Scheffler meant when in his email he said, "Upon Marlene's request I gave her permission to make phone calls from the ICA office. I have absolutely no knowledge of what she was talking about or what she said on the phone." The fact is, the only calls I made from the ICA office were calls made at the request of Steve Scheffler.

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On Wednesday evening before the Saturday, Jim Bopp event, Steve Scheffler called me at the Walnut Creek Inn and asked if I would do him a favor Jim Bopp was a guest at the ICA office on Saturday and he hadn't had the time to call the folks he had planned on inviting Would I make those calls for him? I agreed and made arrangements to meet him at a restaurant where he would go over a list of names to be called

I met Steve at about 11 p m at a local restaurant Over a cup of coffee, Steve hand wrote a list of 55 names and telephone numbers to be called and invited to the Saturday event I told Steve that based on the size of the list and the fact that I knew some of these folks and wouldn't be able to avoid some personal conversations, this was an all day and into the evening job I agreed to start the calls from the ICA office first thing on Thursday morning

I started my calling somewhere between 10 and 11 a m, Thursday morning This was my script "Hi, this is Marlene Elwell, I'm calling on behalf of Iowa Christian Alliance and Steve Scheffler to invite you to attend an event on Saturday morning featuring Jim Bopp Do you know who Jim Bopp is?" Not one person knew or knew of Jim Bopp so I'd go into his background and end with the fact that he was a Mitt Romney supporter, but would immediately say, "I want to make clear that neither ICA nor Steve Scheffler are endorsing Mitt Romney or any other candidate for president, but they are making available events and information on all candidates giving you an opportunity to learn about them all Steve would really like to see you on Saturday morning at 11 30a m" I would then give them the address, telephone number and when needed, directions to the office

If questions were asked, I answered them to the best of my ability If I didn't know the answer to a question, I would suggest they call back or call Steve directly

In the cases of personally knowing the person called, I entered into a "catch up" conversation I ended my calling, taking both a lunch and supper break, at about 9 p m that evening

Not at anytime did I go to the office on Friday

On Saturday morning I received a call from Steve Scheffler telling me that he was running behind and would I be willing to go to the ICA office to greet the guests I said that I would and suggested that I go early, giving me enough time to clean the office It appeared there had been a mailing and the office wasn't ready to receive guests Steve agreed, thanked me, and said he'd call me later

I went to the office somewhere between 10 and 10 30a m I wasn't there long when I got a call from Steve that the event had been canceled due to the snowstorm The guest speaker was getting on a plane before they stopped all flights There was no time to call the invited guests, alerting them to the cancellation Steve, still running behind, asked if I'd stay and greet any guests that may brave it through the snowstorm I agreed to do that

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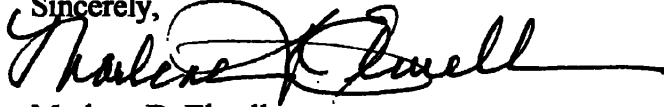
Three people did arrive, including Stacey Cargill. I apologized for not being able to alert them regarding the cancellation of the guest speaker and for not having coffee available to warm them up (couldn't find coffee or a coffee maker). Knowing they had traveled a distance and it wasn't a pleasant thought to have to turn around, going back into the snowstorm with no break, I suggested if they liked, we could take a few minutes to chitchat before weathering the storm again. They all agreed they needed a few minutes before hitting the road.

Before we began any conversation I made it clear, again, that ICA, Steve Scheffler, and in fact, myself, were not endorsing any candidate and that our conversation would be personal and off the record, giving us the freedom to discuss "whatever", and that's what we did.

In this conversation, Stacey expressed her support for Senator McCain, the gentleman was a Romney supporter and the third person, a new comer to ICA, hadn't made up her mind yet. At no time during this meeting did I express support for any candidate, but there were opinions by all, on all the candidates. Steve Scheffler came in later, and at no time did he express support for any candidate, but like the rest, expressed personal opinions, but making it clear that neither he or ICA were endorsing any candidate.

On January 14, in my own state of Michigan, on our primary day of election, I personally, as a pro-life activist, endorsed Mitt Romney for the reasons stated in the submitted press release.

I trust that this response adequately addresses the relevant issues raised in the complaint.

Sincerely,  
  
Marlene D. Elwell